

THE QUEST OF THE RAINBOW DRAGONS: A UU Hero's Story

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Part V - Installment seventeen - Rainbow Principle: [Blue](#)

"Believe in our ideas and act on them"

We affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large.

Our story thus far ...

Two ordinary children, Jared and Delia, have been attempting to fulfill an ancient prophecy called The Quest of the Rainbow Dragons. The prophecy consists of seven tasks, that, if completed successfully, will lead to a new dawn of peace and prosperity for all people. They are being helped in their quest by a furry, funny looking little guy named Les. They are about to begin the fifth task.

Our story continues ...

"The next task is a real doozy," said Les. "What do you remember about it, Jared?"

"Dis-something ... I know - Disillusioned by the hypocrisy and weakness of humanity, Golubnaya, the Blue Dragon, has fled beyond the ends of the earth. There she dwells, waiting for those who are true to the core. The chosen one and the companion ..."

"That's you and me," interrupted Delia.

"Yes, you and me," continued Jared, "... through trials and tribulations, must prove themselves worthy of utopia. Les, what does utopia mean?"

"Utopia is a place where everything is perfect. Different people have different versions of utopia, but in general, there's no fighting, no sickness or suffering, no growing old or dying. That's it in a nutshell."

"Thanks," said Jared. He chewed on his lower lip, and then said, "There's more to it, too. Temptation will be strong, but accept the invitation and the quest will fail. Shatter her dreams, break her heart, and call her back to life. Then shall the Blue Dragon add her might to the quest."

"Disillusioned by the hypocrisy and weakness of humanity, Golubnaya, the Blue Dragon has fled beyond the ends of the earth. There she dwells, waiting for those who are true to the core. The chosen one and the companion, through trials and tribulations, must prove themselves worth of utopia. Temptation will be strong, but accept the invitation and the quest will fail. Shatter her dreams, break her heart, and call her back to life." Jared repeated it all, smoothly this time.

"But what does it mean?" asked Delia. "To be honest, it sounds pretty horrible. I don't want to help shatter anyone's dreams or break their heart! Especially not if this dragon is anything like the other dragons we've met."

"Don't get ahead of yourselves! One day at a time. The first part of this quest is tricky enough. We have to go beyond the ends of the earth to find her. Frankly, I'm a little stumped on this one. I have no idea how to get you to her safely."

Delia and Jared looked at Les with their mouths wide open.

"Stop gaping at me. You remind me of fish." Lou's stomach growled loudly.

"You're the guide!" said Jared. "It's your job to get us to where we need to go!"

"Of course it is," snapped Les. "But there are rules, you know, as to what I can or can't do. If I help you too much, this whole quest thing won't work. In the past, I've been able to get you close enough so that you could meet the dragon under your own steam. But Golubnaya's lair, well, there's simply no safe approach. You have to walk down the Road of Good Intentions, and it's way too dangerous for a couple of kids."

"Can't you come with us?" asked Delia quietly.

"Nope. The minute I set foot on that road, she'll know I'm there, and the gig's up." He sighed loudly.

"Well, then," said Jared, "No matter how dangerous it is, we'll have to walk it."

"You don't understand," said Les. "This isn't a normal road. If you make a single misstep..."

"If we make a misstep, what? We die?"

"Worse," said Les. "You lose your soul."

Jared swallowed hard, then said, "Les, would it break the rules if you told me what you know about the Road of Good Intentions? Ahead of time? I'd like to prepare myself if I can."

"Well," said Lou, "I have known a lot of very fine people who tried to walk the road. I hope some of them made it, but I suspect most didn't, and in any event, none of them have been heard from again. Ever. "Still, I guess I can tell you what the stories say about the Road, and I think I know where to find it."

"Well, then," said Delia. "Lead on."

They slung their packs on their backs and started walking. "The Road of Good Intentions leads to one of two places. One is utopia, and the other is hell," said Les.

"Hell is a real place?" asked Delia.

"No," said Lou, "not really. Not a physical place, like London or Greece. It's hard to describe. Our soul is the part of us that is most connected to the world. It's what makes it possible for us to love, and to learn, and to grow. We need our minds and our bodies to do those things, too, but it's like the mind and the body are tools that the soul uses to do its work of being connected. Are you with me so far?"

"I'm not sure," said Delia.

Jared was more blunt: "Nope! You completely lost me there."

Les sighed. "Let me try again. Being alive, you get to meet people, and care about them. You get to see the world, the beautiful places and things, and the not-so-beautiful as well. You learn and you grow and you become somebody who matters."

"You mean, somebody important, like a king or a sorceress or something like that?"

"No. You don't have to be important to matter. You just have to, well, you have to love. Love is the most powerful thing in the world, and when you love, you change things. You matter. *Get it?*"

"I think I'm getting closer," nodded Delia.

"Me, too," said Jared.

"Okay. So, hell. Hell happens when you wall yourself away from people and places and other things that are beautiful and true. It's like being trapped in a deep, dark well, all by yourself. Some people react by pulling other people down with them, hurting them and making them miserable, so that the dark place isn't so lonely. Others just sort of fade away."

"So it is a place then. Hell is a well," Jared offered tentatively.

"No, I said it's *like* a well. Okay, imagine what it would feel like if nobody loved you, and you didn't love anybody. That's hell."

They walked in silence for a while, trying to imagine a world without love. Finally, Delia said, simply, "I can't imagine that Les. "

"I almost can," said Jared, "but it's really hard."

"Well, maybe it'll help that you're so innocent," said Les. But he still sounded worried.

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After two solid months of travel, some of it by boat, they arrived at a flat-topped hill that Lou called a "mesa." From the top, they could see for miles - except that for miles, there was nothing to see but rocks and dirt.

"Well," said Les, "This is it. This is the End of the Earth. This is as far as I can take you. But *you* need to go beyond it."

"I don't understand," said Jared. "Which direction do I need to go in?"

"It doesn't really matter," said Les quietly. "You have to - how do I say this? - step off."

"WHAT?! We'll fall! And die!" said Jared. Delia just looked scared.

"I'm sorry, kids. It takes a leap of faith. I wish - and I can't tell you *how much* I wish - I could do it for you, but I can't. You've got to just *go*."

It got very quiet for a while. Les shifted back and forth uncomfortably. Finally, Delia spoke. "Okay. I don't see that we have a choice. Maybe if we close our eyes ..."

"No," said Les. "I'm afraid you can't even do that. You've got to make the leap with your eyes wide open."

"Figures," said Jared. Then he turned to Delia. "Well, if I have to jump off a cliff into thin air and fall thousands of feet, I can't think of anyone I'd rather be smashed to bits with."

"Wait a minute!" said Les. "I know what I can do! I've got to go. Give me like fifteen minutes. *Then* leap. If it doesn't work, if you *do* fall, I'll catch you." He smiled proudly.

Jared looked at Delia and his expression said: *This guy is completely nuts*. She smiled back.

"Okay, we'll wait," Jared said to Les, who promptly vanished.

"Jared," said Delia, while they waited, "You know, strange as it is, I think I trust Les. I don't think he'd let us fall."

"Delia, how on earth could he stop us? He's half my height!"

"But remember how he changed, when he needed to carry that little boy we rescued? He got tall. I bet he could do it again."

"You think he can change shape? You know, I've been wondering, you know that turtle that carried us across the water to Atlantis during the third task? It only showed up after Les left, and its eyes - well, they were the same sort of swirling, multicolored eyes that Les has. Do you think he could have turned into the turtle?"

"I don't know. I suppose it's possible. It was pretty lucky that the giant turtle showed up just when we needed something to get all three of us across that lake."

They sat down then, and had a little snack and a drink of water. Finally, Jared stood up, brushed the crumbs off his pants legs, and held out a hand to Delia. "Well, let's do this."

She grabbed hold, and he pulled her to his feet. He started to let go, but she said, "Jared, wait. Do you think we could hold hands while we jump? It'd make me feel better."

Jared blushed a little, but said, "Sure. Why not?"

Together, they turned and faced the wasteland that stretched as far as their eyes could see.

"One, two, three," said Jared, and they began to run toward the edge of the Mesa.

Faster and faster they went, breathing hard, eyes focused on the horizon, hands clasped together. When they reached the edge they *leaped* high into the air.

For a moment, it felt as if they were flying, and then they began to fall. Plummeting toward the earth, they both screamed in terror. They looked down. Underneath them, they saw *a dragon!* Unlike the other dragons they'd met on their quest, this one wasn't one solid color, but many different colors, one running into the next, like a rainbow. It was rising to meet them, its powerful wings sending such powerful currents of air that they felt themselves slow down a little.

Then suddenly, they landed with a thump on a grassy meadow. The mesa, the wasteland, and the amazing rainbow colored Dragon were all gone, as if they'd never existed. Here in this new place, the sun shone, the birds sang, and a cool breeze dried the fear-sweat from their faces and hands. "I guess we made it," said Jared.

"I guess we did," answered Delia. She pointed to their left, where a cobblestone pathway stretched into the distance. "That must be the Road of Good Intentions. Shall we begin walking?"

"Let's go," said Jared.

With hearts full of hope and determination, they started on their way.

Dragon Task: *Have you ever tried something new and different, that took a lot of courage - for example, singing a solo or jumping off the high dive? Who was there to support you and cheer you on? Say thank you to them.*